REMARKS:

This amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated April 19, 2007. At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-6 were pending. The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, and objected to claims 1, 2, 4 and 5. By this response, Applicants have amended claims 1-6, and added new claims 7-16. Accordingly, claims 1-16 are currently pending. For the following reasons, this application should be considered in condition for allowance and the case passed to issue.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 were objected to because of insufficient antecedent basis for various limitations in the claims, as noted by the Examiner on pages 2-3 of the Office Action. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 have been amended accordingly to overcome these objections. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the claims are therefore respectfully requested.

Rejections to the Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 were rejected under Section 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Phillip Heller and Simon Roberts, "JAVA 2 Developer's Handbook," SYBEX, September 1998 (hereinafter "Heller"). These rejections are hereby traversed and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 recites a method comprising:

> A method for providing an extensible educational system, the method comprising the steps of:
> installing on a server a file compatible with a known application program interface (API), wherein the installed file utilizes the known API to provide a modified user interface to at least one user of the system;

invoking an enhanced system functionality by using the modified user interface;

specifying in the file one or more roles of a user that can utilize the enhanced system functionality;

determining if the user has rights to utilize the enhanced system functionality based on the role of the user; and

if the user has rights, granting access to the user to utilize the enhanced system functionality.

In order to anticipate the claims of an invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102, a single prior art reference must identically disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. It is respectfully submitted that Heller fails to satisfy this high burden in regard to independent claim 1. Heller is a general programming book, which explains how to program in JAVA, and does not seek to make known an Internet-based education support system, method and medium providing security attributes in modular, extensible components. Heller contains over 1,000 pages, and Applicants have accordingly limited their review of Heller to the parts referenced in the Office action.

Most of the short, disconnected portions of Heller cited in the Office Action relate to an example of a smart card program, which Heller uses in order to demonstrate how to use "permissions" in Java. (*See* Heller, page 878, lines 21-30). The smart card program is a program intended to emulate the working of a smart card that "provides management of keys, certificates, and medical records." (Heller, page 878, lines 21-35). As best understood from the pages of Heller referred to in the Office Action, the smart card program consists of various source files, one of which is cited in the Office Action at page 4, lines 7-9, namely, "SmartCardPermission.java." (Heller, page 878, lines 21-35). The file referenced in Heller called "Smart.jar," which is cited in various parts of the Office Action (*see e.g.*, Office Action, page 3, line 18), appears to be an archive file used in the smart card example. (*See* Heller, page 883, line 22-35).

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The Office Action apparently refers to the smart card program in Heller because the program involves the granting of permission to access various parts of its functionality. The Office Action mistakenly equates this permission granting aspect of the smart card program with "determining if the user has rights to utilize the enhanced system functionality based on the role of the user," as recited in independent claim 1. The Office Action also confuses the functionality of the smart card program with the "enhanced system functionality" recited in independent claim 1.

As discussed below, the cited portions of Heller fall far short of identically disclosing each and every element of independent claim 1.

Heller does not teach a method that comprises "installing on a server a file compatible with a known application program interface (API), wherein the installed file utilizes the known API to provide a modified user interface to at least one user of the system," as recited in independent claim 1. Even though the Office Action asserts that Heller installs a file named "Smart.jar," and that a "GUI" in Heller is equivalent to the "modified user interface" in independent claim 1, (Office Action, page 3, lines 17-18; page 4, lines 1-2), the installed file, "Smart.jar," does not utilize the known API to provide a GUI, as the Office Action suggests. (Office Action, page 4, lines 1-2). Further still, "Smart.jar" does not utilize the known API to provide a GUI "to at least one user of the system," as recited in independent claim 1. Hence Heller fails to identically disclose the claimed step of "installing ... a file ..., wherein the installed file utilizes the known API to provide a modified user interface to at least one user of the system," as recited in independent claim 1.

Heller does not describe a method "invoking an enhanced system functionality by using the modified user interface," as also recited in independent claim 1. The "SmartCard" program in Heller, referred to in the Office Action (page 4, lines 3-5), merely provides new functionality, which the Office Action confuses with the "enhanced system functionality" recited in independent claim 1. The functionality in Heller's SmartCard program is new in the sense that all programs provide new functionality (otherwise the programs would not be created). However, the SmartCard program neither exhibits "enhanced system functionality," nor invokes "enhanced system functionality," because it does not provide the ability to enhance its own functionality. So Heller fails to disclose the step of "invoking an enhanced system functionality," as recited in independent claim 1.

Moreover, the functionality of the SmartCard program is not invoked using a GUI, as the Office action suggests. (Office Action, page 4, lines 3-6). Rather, Heller invokes the SmartCard program through text commands. (*See e.g.,* Heller, page 882, line 16). Therefore, Heller's method cannot be said to "[invoke] an enhanced system functionality by using the modified user interface," as recited in independent claim 1.

Heller does not disclose a method that comprises "installing on a server a file ... specifying in the file one or more roles of a user that can utilize the enhanced system functionality," as recited in independent claim 1. Heller's use of the files "Smart.jar" and "SmartCardPermission.java" fails to specify "*one or more roles* of a user that can utilize the enhanced system functionality." (emphasis added). The Office Action asserts that "SmartCardPermission.java is a member file inside Smart.jar," but this member file only relates to the JAVA concept of "permissions," which are to control access to the SmartCard program. Permissions are not the same as roles, hence the "Smart.jar" file fails to "specify one or more

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roles of a user that can utilize the enhanced system functionality," as recited in independent claim 1.

Heller also does not communicate a method that involves "determining if the user has rights to utilize the enhanced system functionality based on the role of the user," as recited in independent claim 1. Firstly, the SmartCard program in Heller fails to provide for "enhanced system functionality," as explained above. Secondly, the Office Action claims that Heller's SmartCard program permits access based on the "identity" of the user, rather than on the "role" of the user, as recited in independent claim 1. (*See* Office Action, page 4, lines 14-15). An identity of a user is not the same as a role of a user. The Office Action thus fails to show that Heller reveals a method which comprises "determining if the user has rights to utilize the enhanced system functionality based on the role of the user," as recited in independent claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Heller does not contain each and every element of independent claim 1. Therefore, Heller fails to anticipate independent claim 1, and the claims dependent therefrom. Dependent claims 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 all depend from independent claim 1. Dependent claims 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 therefore cannot be anticipated by Heller, for at least the same reasons that Heller does not anticipate independent claim 1, as well as for other reasons. For example, dependent claim 4 recites the method of independent claim 1 "wherein the roles comprise at least one of user administrator, course administrator, system support, observer, support, portal administrator, system administrator, instructor, student and teacher's assistant." Heller makes no mention of "roles," let alone roles comprising "at least one of user administrator, course administrator, system support, observer, support, portal administrator, system administrator, instructor and teacher's assistant." Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of claims 1-6.
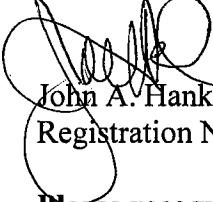
New claims 7-16 have been added to the application. It is respectfully submitted that these claims patentably define over Heller for similar reasons as discussed above with respect to claims 1-6. Accordingly, allowance of claims 7-16 is courteously solicited.

In light of the remarks above, this application should be considered in condition for allowance and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 502624 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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